



PLATTE COUNTY NEWSLETTER



September 2011

FSA Disaster Assistance

Platte County FSA
1502 Progress Court
Wheatland, WY 82201
307-322-4050 phone
307-322-4109 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/WY

Hours
Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
David Hinman
E. John Watson
Britt Wilson
Ruth Cundall, advisor

Staff
Mike Hoffland, DD
Rick Carroll CED
Dixie Mount FLO
Mitzi Mudgett PT
Joni Reyes PT
Pammie Rapp PT

COC Meetings
January 6, 2011
March 17, 2011
June 16, 2011
September 22, 2011
November 17, 2011
December 8, 2011

The Farm Service Agency would like to remind crop and livestock producers throughout states that have recently experienced severe damage from heavy rains, flooding, wildfires and tornadoes that FSA programs are available to assist with recovery.

FSA administers several important programs that help producers recover from disaster damage and livestock deaths. Among the key programs available to address impacts from disasters are the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program.

Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov; click on Newsroom, then Fact Sheets.

Producers who have suffered a disaster loss due to the recent severe weather conditions must give "Notice of Loss" within 30 days of the date that the loss becomes apparent. "Application for Payment" must then be filed before January 31st of the year following the loss. Notice of loss can be done at the FSA Office in person, or by telephone.

Both programs require a Notice of Loss to be filed by the earliest of:

- 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the participant (LIP or ELAP) or
- October 31, 2011 (ELAP only)

A signed application for payment for LIP and ELAP must be received no later than January 31, 2012.

NRCS Assistance

NRCS would like to inform any producer who has recently had any grazing land or pasture effected by fire that these lands could qualify for EQIP or WHIP programs. The deadline to sign up for these programs is **October 28, 2011**. Anybody interested must meet the AGI requirements of the Farm Bill and have at least \$1,000 of Agriculture commodities sold. If you have any questions about these programs or any general questions about any resource concerns give Bailey Rapp, District Conservationist for NRCS a call. He can be reached at 307-322-9060 ext 118 or just stop by the office.

Dates for NAP Coverage for 2012

For biennial and perennial forage crops regardless of intended use, the application closing date shall be December 1st, of the year, immediately preceding the crop year. Biennial and perennial forage crops such as grasses, legumes, & forbs for grazing, forage, seed or any other use the application closing date is **December 1st, 2011**.

For all other crops the application closing date is **April 1st, 2012**.

eNewsletters and eUpdates through GovDelivery!

The Farm Service Agency is providing more cost-effective and resource-conserving options to deliver news, deadlines and bulletins. You have the option to receive information instantly and electronically from your state or local FSA office directly to your farm or ranch. Several states already have GovDelivery for news releases. Take a look at your current state and county options for electronic delivery by visiting the FSA home page at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Click on the small **E-MAIL UPDATES** icon and once you enroll in GovDelivery, you can select electronic subscriptions via e-mail. For more information contact your FSA state office and watch for more news and opportunities to sign up to receive your news quicker and at less cost via e-mail.



[Email Updates](#)

AGI and the IRS

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the verification report that IRS sends to FSA.

The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs. For 2011 the average AGI would be calculated for the years 2007, 2008, 2009.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service at the address given on the form as soon as possible to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and maintaining title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan. Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans. Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments may be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to you account and routing numbers.

Dangerous Acres

Opinion Editorial by Gregor Goertz, USDA Farm Service Agency Wyoming State Executive Director

How fortunate we are to benefit from the hard work and dedication of America's farmers, ranchers, and farm workers. September 18-24 is National Farm Safety and Health Week. As we reflect on the agricultural abundance we enjoy in

Wyoming and this Nation, let's acknowledge the risk inherent in this occupation. As these hard working men and women are creating this agricultural abundance, they must be ever-vigilant for their own safety.

From their toil on farms and ranches we have a cornucopia of healthy food and plants to sustain us and make our lives enjoyable and a wealth of materials for clothing and manufactured products. Every day our lives are touched and enriched by the fruits of their labors.

Wyoming's farm-ranch workers and Agriculture families are among the most productive in the world. An amazing bounty is produced on the idyllic family farms we picture in our minds. But while living and working on a farm or ranch might seem like an entirely wholesome and stress free existence, there are few jobs in America that are more dangerous.

We often think of dangerous jobs as being firefighters, police officers, and miners. But according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, agriculture faces an extremely high fatality rate of nearly 4 for every 10,000 farmers and ranchers. Only fishermen, loggers and aircraft pilots have occupational fatality rates higher.

Dangers built into agricultural work include harsh weather, difficult environmental conditions, operation of heavy machinery and equipment and working with dangerous materials and chemicals. Tractor roll-overs and ATV accidents continue to be responsible for a great number of adult and adolescent farm fatalities on our Nation's farms and ranches. Accidents happen in any field but in agriculture, accidents frequently can be fatal.

I recall several cases of near misses and two cases of accidental deaths in my neighborhood. My father stood on a bucket trying to open a window in the barn during a hot summer day, when the bucket slipped and his arm went through the window. He severely cut his wrist and was rushed to the emergency room. After several stitches he was back at work. In another incident one of our neighbors caught his loose baggy shorts in an auger PTO shaft while unloading grain. Luckily his clothing was old and ragged so it tore loose only leaving him with only a few bruises.

Other members of the community were less fortunate and did not survive their accidents. It is so easy to become complacent in daily farm work that safety basics can be overlooked. Farm safety has to be constantly reinforced. We ask for producers to be safe and observant of hazards during this busy harvest season.

Please join with me during this Farm Safety and Health Week to express our appreciation and gratitude to our farmers, ranchers and agriculture workers for their phenomenal contribution to our very well being. At the USDA Farm Service Agency, we are taking this opportunity to raise the awareness of farm safety to help them stay safe, healthy, and on the job. After all, it is the very practice of farm safety that sustains the health of our Nation's farm and ranch families.

Sure Eligibility

Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that legislative authority for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program ends on September 30, 2011. Producers must meet specific eligibility requirements to receive SURE assistance for disasters that occur on or before September 30, 2011, and affect fall 2011 and 2012 crops.

The SURE program compensates producers for production and/or quality losses during times of disaster.

Producers can apply for a 2011 or 2012 SURE payment if a crop of economic significance located in a primary or contiguous disaster county under a Secretarial Disaster Designation suffered at least a 10 percent loss because of disaster occurring on or before September 30, 2011.

Crops are not required to be harvested on or before September 30, 2011, to maintain SURE eligibility. A loss claim will only trigger after FSA determines that the loss was because of disaster occurring on or before September 30, 2011. Losses that result from disasters that occur after September 30, 2011, will not be eligible for SURE benefits.

Producers with 2011 and 2012 crops that suffer losses caused by disasters that occur on or before September 30, 2011, must also meet the following criteria: For insured crops, the insurance policy defines the coverage period as beginning on or before September 30, 2011

- For Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) crops, the coverage period begins on or before September 30, 2011
- The final planting date according to RMA and FSA (NAP crops only) occur on or before September 30, 2011.

If the final planting date is after September 30, 2011, the crop will not be eligible for SURE benefits. The sign-up period for 2011 and 2012 SURE will not begin until after the national average market prices are determined for each respective crop year, which is normally one year after the applicable crop year. For questions regarding the SURE program, please contact the Platte County FSA office at 307-322-4050.

**NOTICE
TO HISPANIC
AND/OR
WOMEN
FARMERS OR
RANCHERS

COMPENSATION
FOR CLAIMS OF
DISCRIMINATION**

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.



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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

October 10, 2011	Office Closed to Observe Columbus Day
November 4, 2011	FSA 669 Voters Ballot sent to all eligible producers. COC Election
November 11, 2011	Office Closed to Observe Veterans Day
November 24, 2011	Office Closed to Observe Thanksgiving Day
December 1 st	NAP Application Closing Date for Biennial and Perennial Forage Crops.
December 5, 2011	COC Ballots for COC Election to be returned to County Office or Post Marked.
December 8, 2011	County Office to Count COC Ballots for Committee Election
December 26, 2011	Office Closed to Observe Christmas Day
Continues	Continuous CRP sign up
Continues	Farm Stored Facility Loan Program Farm Reconstitution, Update Farm Records

Visit our Web site <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

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